ITEM # 17
DATE: 07-29-08

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT OF AN INDUCTION SORTING SYSTEM FOR A NON-FERROUS METALS RECOVERY SYSTEM

BACKGROUND:

Resource Recovery annually processes in excess of 50,000 tons of municipal solid waste. After processing, the breakout of material is as follows: 64% Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) burned at the City's power plant; 5% ferrous metals transported to Minnesota for additional processing and reuse; and the remaining 31%, approximately 18,000 tons, of rejected material is currently landfilled each year. Of that 18,000 tons, staff has identified 1.17% (219 tons) is non-ferrous metals with a projected market value of $219,000. The 2008/09 Capital Improvement Plan identifies a non-ferrous recovery system to capture these metals.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has awarded the City of Ames a low-interest loan through their Solid Waste Alternatives Program for a non-ferrous recovery system. The City of Ames contracted with RRT Design & Construction for design engineering and construction management services to install a non-ferrous recovery system at the Resource Recovery Plant.

Working with City staff, RRT has identified three main components for an effective non-ferrous metals recovery system. These three components are an Eddy Current System, Induction Sorting System, and related conveyors. To maximize the number of bidders and the procurement of this system, these three components will be bid separately. RRT provided plans and specifications for the Induction Sorting System (ISS). The ISS is estimated to cost $263,000. Funding for this non-ferrous recovery system project is in the amount of $1,100,000.

On Thursday, July 24, 2008, one bid was received after the deadline and was returned, unopened, in accordance with the Code of Iowa. Staff will work with the Engineer to analyze any appropriate revisions to the project and will bring revised plans and specifications to Council on August 12, 2008.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The City Council may accept the report of no bids for this project and allow staff to continue to evaluate this project in conjunction with the consulting engineer. Staff will return to Council at a later date with a plan to complete the work.

2. Delay the project.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Advantages of this project include reducing our carbon footprint, as well as a reduction in landfill use and cost.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative 1, thereby accepting the report of no bids for this project and allowing staff to continue to evaluate this project in conjunction with the consulting engineer.